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To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Justice for sale?

When justice is put on sale, the robber barons (i.e. Microsoft in the case of IT industry) can always afford to make the highest bid.

How can it be good for the US economy, or the global economy to that matter, when better technology or genuine innovation (WordPerfect, Netscape etc. ad nauseam, not forgetting the uncountable startups that never happened or never will happen because going against the convicted but unhindered monopolist equates to a corporate infanticide) always loses to Microsoft's forcefully bundled (tied-in) versions??

The so-called settlement does nothing to correct Microsoft's past wrongdoings nor will it prevent any in the future. Judge Penfield Jackson was outraged for a very good reason, even though he only looked at Microsoft's business practises from a very narrow perspective, and his getting censured for speaking his mind was nothing short of tragi-comic.

The Department of Justice should concentrate on delivering justice instead of being some sort of a business-political executive arm of the currently elected government. The September 11 terrorist attacks on America, despite being despicable acts, should have no bearing to the MS _anti-trust_ case, all arguments should be based on law and all legal entities should be treated equally before it. I though such things would only happen in Banana Republics.

Laissez-faire is a great idea, but it will never work efficiently under monopolies.

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Patrick